

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A system for assisting physically challenged users in operating at least one device, the system comprising:

a frame;

at least one user operable switch lever having a generally large activation region, operable between a first position and a second position and operatively mounted to the frame;

at least one switch operatively connected to said at least one user operable switch lever, and for energizing the at least one device;

at least one tensioning device, coupled to said at least one user operable switch lever, for applying tension in a first direction to the at least one switch lever, and for holding the at least one switch lever under tension in said first position but allowing the at least one switch lever to be moved by the user into said second position to energize the at least one device upon the user applying a force to the at least one switch lever in a direction opposite said first direction of the tension and with a force that exceeds the tension applied by the tensioning device and for returning the at least one switch lever to the first position; and

a switch lever range adjuster, for adjusting the at least one switch lever's range of motion between the first position and the second position.

2. The system according to claim 1, wherein the at least one switch lever is rotatably mounted to the frame.

3. The system according to claim 2, further including means for operatively connecting the at least one switch to the at least one device.

4. The system according to claim 3, wherein the at least one switch lever is movably mounted on the frame.

5. The system according to claim 4, wherein the means for operatively connecting the at least one switch to the at least one device is a wire.

6. The system according to claim 4, wherein the means for operatively connecting the at least one switch to the at least one device is an RF device.

7. The system according to claim 6, wherein the at least one tensioning device is adjustable to adjust the tension required to move the at least one switch lever from the first position to the second position is adjustable.

8. The system according to claim 7, wherein the frame is positioned proximate the user.

9. The system according to claim 8, wherein the tensioning device is a rubber band.

10. The system according to claim 8, wherein the tensioning device is a spring.

11. The system according to claim 8, wherein the at least one switch is mounted to the frame proximate at least one of the user's extremities.

12. The system according to claim 11, wherein the at least one device is a television.

13. The system according to claim 11, wherein the at least one device is a radio.

14. The system according to claim 11, wherein the at least one device is a remote controller for a television.

15. The system according to claim 11, wherein the at least one device is a remote controller for a radio.

16. The system according to claim 11, wherein the at least one device is a toy.

17. The system according to claim 11, wherein the at least one device is a buzzer.

18. The system according to claim 11, wherein the at least one device is a fan.

19. A system for assisting physically challenged users in operating at least one device, the system comprising:

a frame;

at least one switch lever rotatably mounted to the frame, the at least one switch lever movably mounted to one or more positions on the frame, and wherein said at least one switch has a range of motion that is adjustable;

at least one switch operatively connected to the at least one switch lever;

at least one communication device operatively connected between the at least one switch and the at least one device, and for activating the at least one device when the at least one switch is activated by the at least one switch lever;

at least one tensioning member coupled to said at least one switch lever and operatively connected between the frame and the at least one switch lever, for applying tension in a first direction to the at least one switch lever, and for holding the at least one switch lever under tension in said first position but allowing the at least one switch lever to be moved by the user into a second position to energize the at least one device upon the user applying a force to the at least one switch lever in a direction opposite said first position of the tension and with a force that exceeds the tension applied by the tension member; and

wherein the tension member causes the at least one switch lever to return to the first position when the user does not exert sufficient force to overcome the tension applied by the tension member.

20. The system according to claim 19, wherein the tension required to move the at least one switch lever from the first position to the second position is adjustable.

21. The system according to claim 20, wherein the at least one switch lever is rotatably mounted to the frame.